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## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 9 November 2017  
To: Delegations  
Subject: EU-US expert dialogue on drugs

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### 1. Introduction and adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda set out in doc. 12016/3/17 REV 3.

### 2. Update on the drug situation and policy developments in the EU and U.S.

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of the latest developments in the EU drugs policy, including the adoption of the new EU Action Plan on Drugs for 2017-2020 and the forthcoming adoption of the new legislation on new psychoactive substances. The representative of the EMCDDA presented the main conclusions of the European Drug Report 2017 and the representative of Europol updated the meeting on drug supply situation in the EU.

The US delegation explained that they were facing the most serious drug-related crisis since decades and presented the Executive Order 13773 on Transnational Organized Crime, which aimed at reinforcing the fight against drugs. The delegation also elaborated on cooperation with international bodies, China and Mexico to tackle the challenges posed by drugs.

### **3. Update on the situation regarding fentanyls**

The US delegation gave an overview of the situation with fentanyl and its derivatives in the US and noted that the scheduling of fentanyl precursors ANPP and NPP at the 60th CND session was a positive sign, but further work had to be done. The delegation elaborated on the role of postal services in fentanyl and its derivatives trafficking: the meeting was informed about a major increase of fentanyl and its derivatives seizures in parcels coming through post and about increased efforts to identify suspected parcels. The speaker also explained that they started a key programme to enhance drug detection and that fentanyl derivatives were added to the programme so as to raise awareness. Also, guidelines for those who come into contact with these substances have been prepared.

The representative of the EMCDDA noted that a growth in fentanyl and its derivatives was observed in the EU with 60 percent of new fentanyls appearing on the market in the last 18 months. However, the market share was still small. The speaker expressed concern over a new trend of very powerful fentanyl derivatives appearing on the market and about the consequences of accidental exposure to these substances. The Presidency also briefed the delegations on the situation with fentanyls in Estonia, stressing that an increase in carfentanil has been observed.

Delegations further discussed the mechanisms for scheduling new psychoactive substances as well as health side responses to the use of fentanyl and its derivatives, including the distribution of naloxone. The US delegation noted that they had good naloxone distribution systems at state level.

### **4. Discussion on Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) review of 16 substances**

Delegations presented the current legal situation as regards 16 substances reviewed at the 39th meeting of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD). The US delegation explained the mechanism for public consultation as regards the substances on the ECDD review list. The representative of the Commission informed the US delegation that a common EU position would be prepared on the substances proposed for scheduling at the 61st CND meeting.

## **5. Discussion on Cannabis**

The US delegation observed that while the US was experiencing the opioid crisis, the use of marihuana continued to pose risks for health and safety of the society. The delegation gave an overview of the national marijuana use trends in the United States, emphasising that marihuana remained by far the most used illicit drug and that a significant increase between the last month use in adults of 26 years and over was observed comparing 2002 and 2015 figures. Also, the numbers of first-time cannabis users were much higher compared to the previous periods. Delegation also recalled that in many states the use of medical marihuana was legal and that some states have legalised marihuana for recreational purposes. However, cannabis remained illegal at the federal level. The speaker also informed the meeting that the US government has not undertaken any comprehensive review of state laws and their impact.

## **6. Discussion on Cocaine and increased production in Colombia**

The US delegation recalled that cocaine production had increased dramatically in Colombia and also reached record levels in the Andean region. They expressed great concern about the situation and elaborated on the efforts to tackle this issue with the Colombian government.

The representative of the European Commission explained that the issue has been addressed through certain operational actions of the EU Policy Cycle for serious and organised international crime and that Colombia was also involved in drafting some of the actions. The speaker also announced that the EU made a substantial financial contribution to support the peace agreement in Colombia, including through the focus on rural and alternative development. The representative of Europol gave an overview of cocaine trafficking to Europe, noting that trafficking through containers and using rip-off methods still dominated. Delegations further discussed the implementation of alternative development initiatives in the region.

## **7. Discussion on Capacity Building Efforts to Combat Narcotics Trafficking from Asia**

The US delegation gave an overview of their efforts to build capacities to tackle heroin and synthetic drugs focused on the South East Asia. The representative of the Commission presented the EU-ACT programme aimed at strengthening capacities to tackle drug trafficking and fight against international criminal networks along the heroin route and mentioned some bilateral EU programmes, focusing more on alternative development.

Delegations also exchanged views on ARF statement on Enhancing Cooperation in Addressing and Countering the Drug Problem.

## **8. Overview on activities related to alternatives to coercive sanctions**

The representative of the Commission gave an overview of the use of alternatives to coercive sanctions in the EU Member States and the Presidency informed the US delegation about the ongoing discussions at the EU level on promoting such alternatives. The US delegation presented three major models of alternatives to coercive sanctions applied in different states, explaining that for many drug-users engagement with law enforcement officials was the first opportunity to get to treatment services. The speaker also noted that the use of such alternatives was important given the high number of overdoses in the US.

## **9. UNGASS follow up and preparation for the 2019 UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs Ministerial Segment**

The US delegation said that 2016 UNGASS outcome document was the most recent international consensus and that they wished to focus on its practical implementation for the 2019 CND session. They enumerated the priority areas for implementation, including curbing the proliferation of new psychoactive substances. The Presidency and the representative of the Commission also emphasised that the UNGASS outcome document was a pivotal document for all future drug-related discussions and stressed the importance of the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the outcome document.

## **10. AOB**

No issues were discussed under this agenda item.